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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: _____ Complete: XXX Exploration: _____

Inspection Date & Time: _____ 5 AM to 2:40 PM

Date of Last Inspection: 9/18/00

*SW
by
JD*

Mine Name: Willow Creek Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: _____

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Plateau Mining Corporation

Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526

Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface _____ Prep. Plant _____ Other _____

Company Official(s): Ms. Vicky Miller

State Official(s): Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Sunny, cool; 50's Fahrenheit

Existing Acreage: Permitted 14,670 Disturbed 161.55 Regraded _____ Seeded _____

Status: Exploration _____ Active XXX Inactive _____ Temporary Cessation _____ Bond Forfeiture _____

Reclamation (Phase I _____ Phase II _____ Final Bond Release _____ Liability _____ Year _____)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4 th Quarter- April, May, June)	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<u>[XX]</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 10/5/00

(COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE)

Note: The following information is relative to the current situation at the Willow Creek Mine:

- 1) The ventilation fan pad area at the Mine site is still dangered off by MSHA. No access is allowed to inspect this area.
- 2) The preparation plant's heavy media coal washing circuitry is being winterized. The thickener pond is being drained.

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

Amendment AM00A-1, which is relative to the "as-built" condition of sediment pond 001A (mine site sediment pond) and the coal mine waste used to construct the embankment has been returned to the permittee to address a deficiency within the site's mining and reclamation plan as it relates to the final disposition of the coal mine waste in the embankment. The permittee was due to respond to the Division by October 5 relative to a necessary change in the pond 001A reclamation plan. This deadline was not able to be met due to the fact that the permittee is revising the reclamation plan for the entire upper Mine site area. Based on this, the permittee requested an extension from the Division on October 2, until December 15, 2000 to submit the necessary revisions to the reclamation plan.

4A. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

The permittee has completed the redefining of the ditches designated as CGD-15, CGD-17, and CGD-21. These were noted in the September inspection report as undergoing maintenance.

The permittee has completed the concrete grouting of ditch CGD-19, such that the grouting is now within 15 feet of the trash screen at the inlet of CGC-4.

The permittee has installed rip-rap at the base of CGD-18, (School House Canyon CGD-5 bypass ditch) where it intersects CGD-6 and CGD-7, which are located on the surface of the refuse disposal facility.

4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The second quarter impoundment inspections for the site were conducted by Mr. Johnny Pappas on June 15, 2000. There were no hazardous conditions or signs of instability noted for any of the impoundments.

The third quarter impoundment inspections were conducted by Ms. Vicky Miller on the following days respective to impoundment:

- 1) Pond 001A and 002A August 25
- 2) Pond 013A September 1
- 3) Pond 014A and 015A July 10
- 4) Pond 011A September 8
- 5) Pond 012A and 012B September 14

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/038

DATE OF INSPECTION: 10/5/00

As noted in September's inspection report, the permittee has removed sediment from pond 011A, although due to the wetness of same, clean out has been limited. A total cleaning of pond 011A has not been possible. Ms. Miller was questioned as to the permittee's intent relative to a recertification of this pond by a professional engineer. The permittee's representative indicated that same would be followed up on.

A FAX copy of the pond 011A recertification by Mr. John Borla, P.E., was received in the Price field office on October 6. Same meets the requirements of the R645 coal rules relative to the maintenance of the pond.

The monthly inspection reports for MSHA pond 013A, as conducted by Mr. Roland Tallerico of the permittee's safety department were reviewed. All inspections are timely, and are conducted according to the 30 day inspection interval granted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration. There were no hazardous conditions noted by Mr. Tallerico during his inspections which were conducted on July 30, August 30, and September 30. This pond is no longer receiving mine water from pond 001A.

4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

A review of the permittee's water monitoring data for the first three quarters of 2000 was conducted. Both field data sheets and laboratory analyses were reviewed. The mining and reclamation plan requires the monitoring of 15 springs, 7 wells, 11 stream, and 9 UPDES points to effectively monitor surface and ground water.

The following was determined relative to the surface and ground water monitoring regimes for the Willow Creek site:

- 1) Monitoring points B241 (spring) and B131 (stream) exist on private land which has the access barred by a locked gate. According to Ms. Miller, this has been reported to the UDNR/OGM. Access to this area stopped in March, '99. Therefore, the sites have not been monitored for six quarters.
- 2) A sampling error occurred during the second quarter of 2000, during which sampling site B41 (Jack spring) was analyzed for operational parameters rather than baseline parameters. In a letter dated August 17, 2000 to this individual, the permittee informed the UDNR/OGM that the error had occurred, and that the baseline parameters for B41 would be analyzed in October of 2000. All operational parameters had been analyzed during the second quarter. At that time, the inspector made the decision that no hydrologic damage due to the loss of data had occurred.
- 3) Stream point B-25 (Crandall Canyon Creek) is required to be monitored four times per year. With the April 18, 2000 sample, the sampler inadvertently checked the wrong parameter list for the analysis, and thus a failure to analyze for total suspended solids occurred. All other baseline parameters were run on that particular sample. The permittee informed the UDNR/OGM of the analytical error through this inspector in a letter dated August 17, 2000. At that time, this inspector made the determination that no hydrologic damage had occurred due to the loss of that data.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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Discharge monitoring reports for the site's seven UPDES discharge points were reviewed for the months of June, July, and August of 2000. No outfalls occurred during this period. All reports were submitted in a timely manner.

7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS

The third quarter School House Canyon waste rock disposal area inspection was performed and P.E. certified by Mr. John Borla on September 13. There were no signs of instability or other hazards noted by Mr. Borla's inspection. No hazards were observed during today's field inspection.

The permittee has contoured the volumes of BTU resource recovery material which had been stored on the waste rock disposal area back into the pile.

Inspector's Signature: _____



Peter Hess #46

Date: October 12, 2000

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining.

sd

cc: James Fulton, OSM
Johnny Pappas, Plateau
Price Field office

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